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**From:** Meredith Gallen <meredith.gallen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 14, 2021 4:07 PM  
**To:** info-POC  
**Cc:** Stephanie Saporito  
**Subject:** Local 148 letter supporting ending CDP  
**Attachments:** Local 148 - CDP Letter to POC.pdf

**CAUTION:** External Email. Proceed Responsibly.

Dear Commissioners,

Attached please find a letter from the Political and Legislative Action Committee (PLAC) of the Los Angeles County Public Defenders Union (Local 148) encouraging the Commission to vote to recommend that the Board of Supervisors end Probation's Citation Diversion Program (CDP). Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Many thanks.

Best,

Meredith.

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Meredith Gallen  
(she/her/hers)  
610.301.3064



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDERS UNION

November 14, 2021

Probation Oversight Commission  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Commissioners,

As the elected leadership of the Los Angeles County Public Defenders Union – Local 148, representing nearly 700 deputy public defenders, **we are writing to request that the Probation Oversight Commission recommend that the Board of Supervisors end the LA County Probation Department's Citation Diversion Program (CDP).**

Many of us have been privileged to represent youth charged with crimes in juvenile delinquency court in Los Angeles County as juvenile public defenders. We know the many ways in which contacts with the criminal legal system can hurt the youth in our communities. We advocate tirelessly to limit the trauma youth experience as a result of interactions with the criminal legal system and we fight to ensure that they suffer as few negative consequences as possible. We have been proud to see our county move towards implementing a vision of youth justice that is rooted in care, support, and healing these past few years. We are therefore deeply troubled by the continued existence of CDP. We believe that CDP is harmful to the youth in our communities and that its methods are incompatible with the county's vision of youth justice.

CDP is charged with handling "low-level non-traffic" infractions such as curfew and petty theft charges. As advocates we know that the consequences for even the lowest level offenses can significantly harm youth and their families. Because youth in CDP proceedings are not provided court-appointed counsel, they routinely make decisions that could place them in enormous debt, limit their educational and career opportunities, or cause them to suffer significant harm in future immigration proceedings, without first being properly advised.

To our knowledge, the CDP program does not communicate with the court system in any way. Consequently, our juvenile public defenders often never learn that their clients have CDP matters pending. This means that, with our assistance, our youth clients may successfully complete the onerous terms of probation associated with a case adjudicated in delinquency court, have their records sealed, but still have additional obligations to complete via the CDP program.

We know that these obligations are incredibly severe, especially for low-income families, with fines ranging from \$197 to over \$2,100 in some cases. This is particularly unjust as the Superior Court provides adults with the opportunity to request an ability to pay hearing for infraction cases, but CDP does not afford the same opportunity to youth.

Furthermore, we strongly feel it is an infringement on the right to due process to not have a viable review or appeals process in place for CDP. Only one Probation hearing officer decides every CDP case, hearings are not recorded, and there are no clear guidelines on how individual cases are decided without a structured

appeal process and with no court appointed counsel, these youth are at the mercy of a system with only their families to advocate for them.

**For these reasons, we urge you to recommend that the Board of Supervisors end this discriminatory program and dismiss all pending citations.**

We look forward to your prompt attention to this matter. Please contact us if you have any further questions or concerns on this critical issue for the youth of Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

The Political and Legislative Action Committee (PLAC)  
Los Angeles County Public Defenders Union

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**From:** Olivia Shields <oshields@urbanpeaceinstitute.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2021 12:41 PM  
**To:** info-POC  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Agenda Items 3, 4 and 5

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Hello,

My name is Olivia Shields with Urban Peace Institute and Los Angeles Youth Uprising Coalition giving public comment regarding items 3, 4 and 5. Firstly, the Citation Diversion Program run by Probation should be shut down immediately. The lack of transparency and accountability within the program is alarming given the enormous affects its punishments can have on a young person's life. While we requested data from 2016-2020, we have only received data from 2019, which alone did not show any positive impact whatsoever. We do know that driver's license suspension has a severely negative impact on kids' lives, impairing their ability to get to school, work, drive family members, and potentially resulting in a misdemeanor. Even the court itself where youth are expected to show up is extremely inaccessible, given that all hearings are held in one room in Van Nuys. CDP is an antiquated, draconian program that must be ended as soon as possible. All old CDP tickets should be dismissed. Any citations that do come to CDP should instead be directed to YDD or should not be citations at all, but rather counsel and release situations. On agenda item 4, Probation and the BSCC seem to have forgotten that in the process of working to make the compound "suitable," young people still endure atrocious conditions every day. Youth are shackled when moving around the compound even for situations like going to dentist appointments, youth are confined to their rooms regularly or subjected to solitary confinement, youth must eat food that they have found maggots in. No child should be subjected to these state sanctioned horrors. Lastly, regarding agenda item 5, we are aware of the 13 young people with secure track dispositions who are trapped at the compound because Probation is engaging in labor negotiations with their staff. The programming and support that young people need to grow and heal does not exist at the compound; as we continue to push for better facilities and greater access to services in the future, you all must remember that young people suffer daily in the meantime.

Thank you,  
Olivia

**Olivia Shields**  
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